

REMARKS

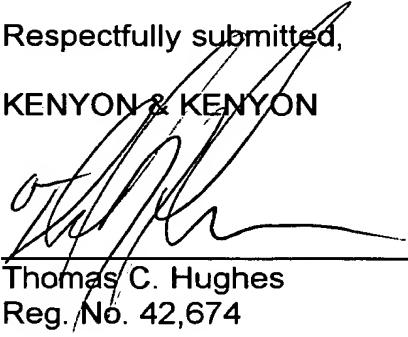
I. Introduction

With the withdrawal of claims 1 to 6 as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and with the cancellation of claim 8, claims 7 and 9 to 13 are pending in the present application. Applicants submit this Response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment in order to conform the Amendment originally filed on March 18, 2003 and re-submitted in a Request for Continued Examination on February 10, 2004, to the new requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as amended on June 30, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks provided in the Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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